BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC STATS Infoline

Issue: **97-46** 7 Pages
November 14, 1997

tel (250) 387-0327
fax (250) 387-0329

You will find the last 5 issues on our website:

http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

highlights

a weekly digest of recently released British Columbia statistics

Housing

- **The cost of new housing in British Columbia continued to decline in September.** Vancouver's New Housing Price Index (NHPI) was down 3.1% from the previous September, and the NHPI for Victoria dropped 2.7%. The steady downward movement in the cost of new housing in the province has brought Victoria's NHPI down to only marginally higher (107.7) than it was in 1986, the base year for the index. In contrast, the Canadian NHPI stood at 133.0 in September (up 1.1% from 12 months previously), and Vancouver's NHPI was 124.3. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The number of housing starts in British Columbia increased 12.0% (seasonally adjusted) between September and October.** This was well above the national average (+3.4%), and the second-highest increase in the country. PEI (+32.3%) ranked first. Housing starts were up in six of the ten provinces. Among provinces where housing starts declined, New Brunswick (-26.9%) and Saskatchewan (-19.3%) recorded the sharpest drops. *Source: CMHC Housing Facts*

- **In 1996, BC had the highest turnover rate for owned housing in the country.** The ratio of housing resales to the total owned stock was 7.6%. This compares to a national average of 4.6%. *Source: CMHC Housing Facts*

Motor Vehicle Sales

- **Motor vehicle sales in BC were 7.5% higher in September than in the same month last year.** The increase was the ninth in as many months. Sales of North American-made vehicles were up only marginally (0.8%), but the market for cars and trucks manufactured overseas continued to improve, with sales increasing 50.9%. Nationally, new vehicle sales were 19.4% higher than in September 1996, with every province except BC recording double-digit gains.

  This has been a banner year for new vehicle sales. During the first nine months of 1997, sales were up more than 10% in every province, as retailers of motor vehicles continued to recover from a slump in 1995 and relatively low growth in most parts of the country last year. Sales rose 11.2% in BC, and 17.1% nationally. In the rest of the country, growth rates ranged from 12.7% in Manitoba to 34.3% in Newfoundland.

  Source: Statistics Canada

Tourism

- **The number of non-residents entering Canada via BC was 1.3% higher in September than in the same month last year.** There were 717,385 direct entries into British Columbia, three-quarters (552,748) of which were from the United States. Entries by Americans were up for the sixth straight month, increasing 1.7% from September 1996. Entries from Asia were 5.2% higher than a year ago, but entries from Europe, which have been declining since May, were down 7.9%.

  Year-to-date, the number of entries by non-residents was 4.6% higher than in 1996, largely due to a 5.3% increase in entries from the United States. Entries from other countries rose only 1.8%, as a 3.1% increase from Asia was partly offset by a 2.9% decline in entries from Europe.

  Source: Statistics Canada

- **Same-day car trips to BC by Americans continued to increase in September.** Americans made 197,462 same-day car trips to the province, accounting for about a third of total entries by Americans into BC in September. This

Report **Tourism with APEC economies**

Did you know...?
Between 1974 and 1996, a total of 1,994 Canadian children were homicide victims–an average of 87 children each year.

was 4.3% more than in the same month last year.

The low value of the Canadian dollar continued to dampen same-day travel from BC to the United States. The number of same-day car trips was down 6.8% from September 1996. Despite the decrease, same-day trips from BC outnumbered those from the US almost four to one. There were 748,960 same-day car trips from the province to the United States in September.

Source: Statistics Canada

Income Support

- **The number of British Columbians receiving BC Benefits continued to decline in September.** There were 298,690 recipients, 10.2% less than in the same month last year. The number of Basic BC Benefits recipients (excluding seniors and the disabled) fell 13.4% to 250,227.

Source: Ministry of Human Resources Administrative Data

AIDS and HIV Infections

- **Since 1983, a total of 2,485 British Columbians have been diagnosed with AIDS, and 1,874 have died from the disease.** Almost all (96%) of the people diagnosed with the disease were males, and 92% were in high risk categories (homosexuals and/or injection drug users).

  A total of 8,756 people in the province have tested newly positive for HIV infection since 1985, with 331 new positive test results in the first six months of this year. Forty-three percent (142) of these people were injection drug users. In 1992, only 10% of newly positive HIV test results were for injection drug users.

Source: AIDS Update, Quarterly Report

Teenage Mothers

- **Teenage mothers gave birth to 71,921 children, accounting for 6% of all Canadian births in 1992–94.** Most of these children had older fathers: teenage fathers were associated with 16,073, or 1.5% of all births. Among young women aged 15–17, more than half (54%) of the births involved partners who were 20 or older, and 24% involved fathers who were at least six years older than the mother. In BC, 30% of births to women aged 15–17 involved fathers who were at least six years older than the mothers. Quebec (33%) and NWT (37%) were the only other regions where the percentage of older fathers was higher than in BC. The percentage was lowest in Newfoundland (17%).

Source: Statistics Canada, special report

Assaults Against Children and Youth

- **During 1996, children and youth from infancy to age 17 were the victims in 22% of assault incidents reported to the police.** Eighteen percent (16,400) of reported physical assaults and 60% (6,500) of reported sexual assaults were against children. Girls were the victims in 38% of reported physical assaults and 77% of sexual assaults. In more than half (52%) of the reported assaults, the perpetrator was an acquaintance of the child. Family members were accused in 24% of assaults against children.

Source: SC, 85-002, Vol 17, No 11

Research and Development

- **There were 134,600 Canadians employed doing R&D in 1995/96.** More than half (72,070) of these workers were employed by businesses, with the second largest R&D employers being universities and other institutes of higher education (42,360). The remainder were employed by federal (15,220) and provincial (3,030) governments, or by private non-profit institutions (1,920). Half of the R&D workers were researchers in natural sciences and engineering.

  Compared to other major industrialized countries, Canada employed proportionally fewer researchers in natural sciences, engineering, social sciences and humanities (76,000 people, or 5.1 out of every 1,000 workers) in 1993, the latest year for which data were available for all countries. Japan (9.7 per 1,000 workers) had the highest concentration of researchers, followed by the United States (7.4) and Sweden (6.8). Italy (3.3) had the lowest ratio among nine OECD countries. *Source: SC, 88-001-XPB*

highlights, Issue 97-46
November 14, 1997

For data originating from Statistics Canada: data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the publication name or catalogue number.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC STATS

Ministry of Finance and
Corporate Relations

Contact: Martin Monkman
Tel: (250) 387-0360
Release: November 1997

Tourism with APEC Economies

APEC[1] economies earned 1/3 of world tourism receipts ...

- APEC economies accounted for 35% of world tourism receipts[2] of $372.6 billion (US$) in 1994 (the most recent year for which data are available). International receipts totalled $130.4 billion in APEC economies.
- The United States earned nearly half of the APEC total ($60.4 billion). This was well ahead of the next biggest earner of international tourism receipts, Hong Kong ($8.3 billion).
- Of the APEC economies, Canada's $6.3 billion in 1994 in international tourism receipts ranked sixth behind the United States, Hong Kong, China, Singapore, and Mexico.

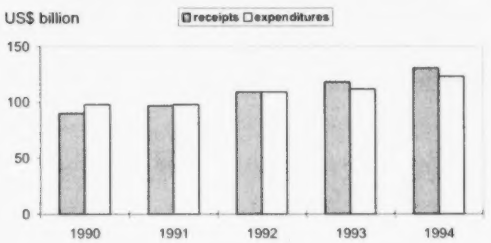
... and made 1/3 of world tourism expenditures

- Travellers from APEC economies spent $122.9 billion (US$) in other countries in 1994, 33% of the world total ($372.6 billion).
- The United States led APEC with $43.6 billion in expenditures, followed by Japan ($30.7 billion) and Canada ($11.7 billion).

APEC tourism has grown steadily

- International tourism receipts in APEC economies have grown at an average rate of 9.8% a year[3] between 1990 and 1994. APEC economies earned $89.9 billion (US$) in 1990, and $130.4 billion in 1994.
- Among APEC economies, the largest average increases in international tourism receipts were in China (34.8%) and Indonesia (22.8%). Other strong performances were recorded by Malaysia, Chinese Taipei, and Philippines.

APEC tourism receipts and expenditures have grown rapidly



- Tourism expenditures by APEC economies have grown from $97.8 billion in 1990 to $122.9 billion in 1994. On average, tourism spending from APEC increased 5.9% a year between 1990 and 1994.
- Growth in outbound tourism from some APEC members has been significant. While still relatively small, annual average growth in excess of 20% in each year between 1990 and 1994 was recorded by China, Indonesia, and Thailand. In comparison,

[1] Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation. The member economies are Australia, Brunei Darusallam, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong (China), Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Chinese Taipei (Taiwan), Thailand, and the United States of America.

[2] Excluding transportation.

[3] Compound rate.

international spending by Canadian tourists increased 2.9% per year between 1990 and 1994.

- While travel expenditures by APEC economies exceeded receipts in 1990, this condition was reversed by 1994 after a period of rapid growth in receipts. China played a large part in this switch, more than tripling the value of international travel receipts in this period.

International travel by Canadians

- Canadians made 18.2 million overnight person-trips abroad during 1995. The total spending on these trips was $11.9 billion ($CDN).
- Not surprisingly, most of the international travel by Canadians is to the U.S.A. America was the destination for 80% of the overnight person-trips (14.7 million), and nearly two-thirds of all spending by Canadians ($7.1 billion). Another $1.2 billion was spent by Canadians during the 37.5 million "same day" trips made to the United States during 1994.
- Both overnight and same-day trips by Canadians to the United States peaked in 1991. That year, Canadians made 19.1 million overnight trips and 60.2 million same-day trips. Since then the decline in the value of the Canadian dollar has discouraged travel to the U.S.A., particularly same-day cross-border shopping trips.
- During 1995, Canadians made 5.6 million trips to countries other than the United States, spending $4.8 billion. With the exception of a decline in overseas travel in 1991 precipitated by the Gulf War, the onset of the Bosnian civil war, and an economic recession in Canada, the number of trips made by Canadians to overseas destinations has increased steadily.
- Mexico is the third most popular destination for Canadian travellers after the United States and the United Kingdom. Canadians made over 500,000 trips to Mexico in 1995, and spent $351 million. The only other APEC destinations for which data are available are Hong Kong (123,000 visits, and $138 million in expenditures) and Japan (59,000 visits and $125 million in expenditures).

Table 1: International[4] Visits and Spending by Canadians, 1995

Region	Visits ('000)	Spending ($ million)
Europe	2,783	2,439.7
Africa	124	147.2
Asia:		
Hong Kong	123	137.7
Japan	59	125.3
Other Asia	393	517.1
Central America and Caribbean	1,389	737.1
South America	130	127.1
Mexico	505	351.3
Oceania	113	206.0
TOTAL	5,632	4,790.4

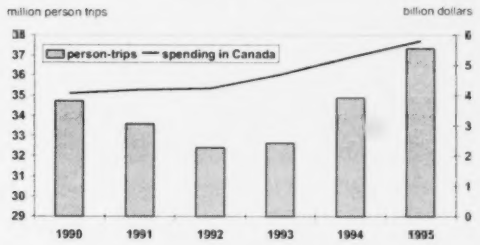
- British Columbians, along with residents of the Yukon and Northwest Territories, accounted for 16.5% of the trips made by Canadians to all international destinations during 1995.

[4] Excluding the United States of America.

Most international visitors in Canada are Americans ...

- Americans made 37.3 million person-trips to Canada during 1995, spending $5.8 billion. Of these, two-thirds were same-day trips. Although only a third of trips by Americans were overnight, they accounted for most (83%) of the spending.
- While the number of trips made by Americans to Canada has hovered between 32 and 38 million in the years 1986 through 1991, spending by Americans has climbed steadily.

Visits by Americans fluctuated, spending increased



- The average American overnight stay lasted 3.8 nights, with spending of $98 per person-night and $371 for the entire trip.

... but the international travellers spend significantly more per trip

- Residents of countries other than the U.S.A. made 4.3 million person-trips to Canada, and spent $4.1 billion, during 1995.
- Japanese visitors are third only to the United States and the United Kingdom in terms of international tourists to Canada, making 667,800 person-trips to Canada during 1995.
- Visitors from overseas stayed longer than Americans (overnight stays lasted 10.9 nights, compared to 3.8 for Americans) and had a much smaller proportion of same-day visits (under 1%). Significantly, visitors from overseas who stayed overnight spent $94 per person-night, slightly *less* than Americans. However, because of the longer stay, overseas visitors spent more per trip than their American counterparts ($1,026).
- Japanese travellers to Canada spent $190 per person-night in 1995, more than double the average for international visitors, but on a trip that lasts just over half as long as the average (5.9 nights). Australians are roughly average in both spending ($100) and length of stay (9.7 nights).

APEC travel to British Columbia

NOTE: *The tourism revenue and volume estimates presented in this section are the most current as of October 31, 1997. Tourism BC will be publishing updates of these estimates in the near future based on the results of the 1996* B.C. Visitor Study.

- APEC members are important sources of tourists to B.C. The largest was the United States; 4.2 million American visitors to B.C. accounted for $1.1 billion in tourism revenue, 16% of the $7.0 billion earned in the province during 1996. Japan ranked second among international tourists, with 389,000 visitors and spending of $229 million.

Table 2: British Columbia tourism visitor and revenue, 1996

Country	Visitors ('000)	Revenue ($'000,000)
APEC*:		
United States	4,187	1,132
Japan	389	229
Hong Kong	148	87
Chinese Taipei	118	69
Australia	101	59
Republic of Korea	96	57
New Zealand	28	17
other overseas	724	422
BC residents	18,158	3,408
other Canada	3,709	1,487
Total B.C.	27,658	6,967

** Data for some APEC members are unavailable.*

- Entries from APEC economies other than the U.S.A. to Canada via B.C. in 1996 totalled 889,994. More than one-third of these (342,105) were from Japan. The only other APEC economies with over 100,000 entries were Hong Kong (129,830) and Chinese Taipei (103,527).
- The number of entries from overseas APEC economies has grown by leaps and bounds during the past three years, rising 62% in that period. In 1996, the number of entries was up 20% over 1995.
- Four economies accounted for three-quarters of the growth in overseas APEC entries during 1996: Japan, the Republic of Korea, Hong Kong, and Chinese Taipei.
- The strongest rate of growth in entries since the beginning of the decade has been from the Republic of Korea. The number of entries has rocketed from 10,148 in 1990 to 84,910 in 1996.
- Entries from Chinese Taipei have also increased dramatically (20,043 to 103,527), and is now the fifth largest source of overseas visitors to the province (after Japan, the U.K., Germany, and Hong Kong). If this explosive growth continues, Chinese Taipei may well move into third spot, surpassing both Germany and Hong Kong in 1997.
- Other APEC economies where the number of entries has more than doubled between 1990 and 1996 include Chile (614 to 1,924), Thailand (4,174 to 12,603), and China (9,771 to 24,514).

Data sources

- Statistics Canada, *Touriscope: International Travel between Canada and other countries 1995* (66-201), 1996.
- Tourism BC.
- World Tourism Organization, *Compendium of Tourism Statistics 1990-1994* (16th edition), 1996.

Additional statistics on trade and immigration patterns with APEC economies are available from:

BC STATS
Ministry of Finance and
Corporate Relations
PO Box 9410 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9V1

telephone: (250) 387-0360
FAX: (250) 387-0380

or visit the BC STATS website at
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

Infoline

November 14, 1997

fax transmission information service from **BC STATS**

also on the Internet at http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jul 1/97	% change on year ago
BC	3,933.3	2.0
Canada	30,286.6	1.1
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT		% change
(BC - at market prices - $ millions)	1996	on year ago
Current Dollars	103,631	1.7
Constant (1986) Dollars	74,001	1.0
TRADE ($ millions)		
Manufacturing Shipments (seas. adj.) Aug	2,864	-1.5
Merchandise Exports (raw) Aug	2,047	-4.8
Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) Aug	2,756	5.9
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		% change
(all items - 1986=100)	Sep '97	on year ago
BC	139.9	0.9
Canada	138.1	1.6
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change
(seasonally adjusted)	Oct '97	on year ago
Labour Force - BC	2,020	0.1
Employed - BC	1,840	1.0
Unemployed - BC	181	-7.9
		Oct '96
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	9.0	9.7
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	9.1	10.0
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Nov 12/97	Nov 13/96
Prime Business Rate	5.25	4.75
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	5.65	5.20
- 5 year	6.70	6.95
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Nov 12/97	Nov 13/96
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $	1.4088	1.3330
US $ *(reciprocal of above rate)*	0.7098	0.7502
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS		% change
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Aug '97	on year ago
BC	619.00	0.9
Canada	598.58	1.5

SOURCES:
Gross Domestic Product: Statistics Canada, revised by BC STATS
Population, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Earnings: Statistics Canada
Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

Released this week by BC STATS
- Earning and Employment Trends, Aug. 1997

Next week
- Consumer Price Index, October 1997

BC STATS, Min. of Finance & Corporate Relations, Box 9410 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9V1
Tel: (250) 387-0327 Fax: (250) 387-0329 Web: http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca E-mail: BCSTATS@fincc04.fin.gov.bc.ca